

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118-10
OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the appropriate place in subtitle A of title XVIII,
insert the following:

1 **SEC. 18 ____ . IMPROVING PROCESSING BY DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS OF DISABILITY CLAIMS**
3 **FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.**

4 (a) TRAINING FOR CLAIMS PROCESSORS WHO HAN-
5 DLE CLAIMS RELATING TO POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
6 DISORDER.—

7 (1) UPDATE TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Not later
8 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
9 this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, act-
10 ing through the Under Secretary for Benefits, up-
11 date an ongoing, national training program for
12 claims processors who review claims for compensa-
13 tion for service-connected post-traumatic stress dis-
14 order.

15 (2) PARTICIPATION REQUIRED.—Beginning on
16 the date that is 180 days after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall require that
18 each claims processor described in paragraph (1)
19 participates in the training established under para-

1 graph (1) at least once each year beginning in the
2 second year in which the claims processor carries out
3 the duties of the claims processor for the Depart-
4 ment.

5 (3) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The training estab-
6 lished under paragraph (1) shall include instruction
7 on stressor development and verification.

8 (b) STANDARDIZATION OF TRAINING AT REGIONAL
9 OFFICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
10 enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the
11 Under Secretary, shall standardize the training provided
12 at regional offices of the Veterans Benefits Administration
13 to the employees of such regional offices.

14 (c) FORMAL PROCESS FOR CONDUCT OF ANNUAL
15 ANALYSIS OF TRENDS.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
17 through the Under Secretary, shall establish a formal
18 process to analyze, on an annual basis, training needs
19 based on identified processing error trends.

20 (d) FORMAL PROCESS FOR CONDUCT OF ANNUAL
21 STUDIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
24 retary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall es-
25 tablish a formal process to conduct, on an annual

1 basis, studies to help guide the national training
2 program established under subsection (a)(1).

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each study conducted under
4 paragraph (1) shall cover the following:

5 (A) Military post-traumatic stress disorder
6 stressors.

7 (B) Decision-making claims for claims
8 processors.

9 (e) ANNUAL UPDATES TO POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
10 DISORDER PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180
11 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not
12 less frequently than once each year thereafter, the Sec-
13 retary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall evaluate
14 the guidance relating to post-traumatic stress disorder to
15 determine if updates are warranted to provide claims proc-
16 essors of the Department with better resources regarding
17 best practices for claims processing, including specific
18 guidance regarding development of claims involving com-
19 pensation for service-connected post-traumatic stress dis-
20 order.

